REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present Application. Claim 1 is amended by the present amendment. Support for amendments to the claims can be found in the claims as originally filed, for example in Figure 6 and corresponding disclosure. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,264,556, herein "Izawa") in view of Blad et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2003/0063035, herein "Blad") and Cassidy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,615,625, herein "Cassidy"); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa, Blad and Cassidy in view of Bryant et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,513,639, herein "Bryant"); Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa, Blad and Cassidy in view of Lamah (U.S. Pat. No. 5,788,046); Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa, Blad and Cassidy in view of Handelman et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0048067, herein "Handelman"); and Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa, Blad and Cassidy in view of Battrick (U.S. Pat. No. 3,806,651).

Addressing now the rejection of Claim 1-3, 6, 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa, Blad and Cassidy, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part,

> a money validation unit for validating money provided from outside;
>
> a detachable money storage unit for storing the money that has been determined as valid by said money validation unit, the money storage unit including a lid to be opened when the money stored within said money storage unit is collected, a signal receiving unit and a lid lock/unlock unit including a solenoid;

> a first power-signal connection configured to transmit, as a pulse signal, both electric power and a money information signal representing information on the money to be stored in said money storage unit; and
>
> a second power-signal connection configured as a ground,
>
> wherein said money validation unit supplies both said electric power and said money information signal to the detachable money storage unit via the first power-signal connection when said money validation unit is electrically connected to said money storage unit, and the lid lock/unlock unit locks or unlocks the lid using only the electric power provided via the first power-signal connection and the signal receiving unit extracts the money information signal from the pulse signal.

Izawa describes a gaming machine which includes a bill validator 12 and a note hopper 110. However, Izawa does not describe or suggest two connection terminals, the first connection transmitting, as a pulse signal, both electric power and a money information signal and the second connection configured as a ground and a lid lock/unlock unit including a solenoid that locks or unlocks the lid using only the electric power provided via the first power-signal connection.

The outstanding Action relies on Blad and Cassidy as curing the deficiencies of Izawa with regard to the claimed invention.

Blad describes a currency container tracking system, the currency container 100 including a memory module 102. In addition, Blad describes that the memory module 102 connects to a data unit 112 via two contacts 110/104. Further, Blad describes that the memory module 102 is able to scavenge power from the data line to which the device is attached.

Cassidy describes a system for the secure transportation of articles such as cheques and bank notes using a container with a lid/door 50/44. In addition, Cassidy describes that the door is opened/closed by solenoids 100 which are controlled by the electronic circuitry of the docking station 96 and the lid is operated by a motorized mechanism. In addition, Cassidy

describes that the motorized locking mechanism and the solenoids are operated by a lead acid battery in the container.[1]

However, the combination of Izawa, Blad and Cassidy does not describe or suggest a lid lock/unlock unit including a solenoid that locks or unlocks the lid using only the electric power received via the first power-signal connection, as is recited in Claim 1.

The outstanding Action states on page 8 that "the Examiner asserts that the first power-signal connection would be capable of both powering the electronic lock (Cassidy, col. 4, lines 9-13) and providing a money information signal (Blad, paragraph 0045, line 9, elements 104) as taught by the Cassidy and Blad references."

Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and Applicants respectfully submit that the power required to operate the electric lid of Cassidy ***could not possibly*** be "scavenged" from the data line of Blad ***without additional circuitry***. MPEP §2143.01 states "If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)."

Specifically, as is known in the art, solenoids such as those described in Cassidy require a significant power draw. In contrast, NVRAM devices such as the DS1994 described in Blad require a much lower amount of power. It would not be possible to simply "scavenge" power from the data line of Blad to power the solenoids of Cassidy without additional circuitry.

In the claimed invention, the money information signal is extracted from the pulse signal that includes enough power to operate the solenoid in the lid lock/unlock unit.

In the combination of Blad and Cassidy, there is described a low-power DC signal which is used as a data line (i.e. Blad) and a bank of solenoids 100 (i.e. Cassidy) which are

[1] Cassidy, col. 4, lines 59-63.

powered by a power supply unit 92 which is described in col. 3 of Cassidy as being connected to either the AC mains or a battery in order that sufficient power can be supplied. Clearly the solenoids 100 of Cassidy would not be able to properly function using only the power supplied by a DC data line which is described in Blad.

Moreover, there is no description in either Blad or Cassidy of a signal receiving unit that extracts a money information signal from a pulse signal, this feature is simply not described in these references.

In addition, none of the further cited Bryant, Lamah, Handelman or Battrick references cure the above noted deficiencies of Izawa, Blad and Cassidy.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Izawa, Blad, Cassidy, Bryant, Lamah, Handelman and Battrick considered individually or in any proper combination.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

James Love
Registration No. 58,421

I:\ATTY\JL\252008US\252008US_AM(8.18.2008).DOC